



Assemblymember
Robert C. Carroll
 Assembly District 44

January 25, 2019

Greetings --

It was another busy week in Albany. The Assembly and Senate both passed the Reproductive Health Act, Comprehensive Contraception Coverage Act, The “Boss Bill” and the New York State Dream Act, I was a co-sponsor on each. All of these bills have been passed in the Assembly many years in a row, but now the Senate has finally passed them as well. This progressive legislation is badly needed and it is a great moment for our state that all of these bills will become law this year.

See details on the legislation we passed below:

Women’s Reproductive Health Legislation:

The Reproductive Health Act ([A.21](#)) updates New York State law to address constitutional flaws and recognize a woman’s fundamental right to access safe, legal abortion. The bill would authorize duly licensed health care practitioners to terminate a pregnancy within 24 weeks, when there is an absence of fetal viability or when the woman’s life or health are endangered. The bill would move abortion from the Penal Law to the Public Health Law, which would remove longstanding harmful and burdensome barriers to accessing reproductive healthcare and protect New Yorkers against future federal intrusion.

The Comprehensive Contraception Coverage Act ([A.585A](#)), would codify in New York State Insurance Law the requirement under the federal Affordable Care Act that all health insurers provide cost-free contraceptive coverage as a part of their insurance policies. Under the proposal, insurance companies would have to provide cost-free coverage for at least one type of all FDA-approved contraceptives, including emergency contraception. The bill would also apply to voluntary sterilization procedures, extending coverage to both men and women, and would provide contraceptive education, counseling and related follow up services.

The “Boss Bill” ([A.584](#)) would prohibit employers from accessing an employee’s personal information regarding reproductive health decision-making and from imposing any requirements that would obstruct an employee's ability to exercise their right to make these decisions and access related health and medical services. This bill prohibits employers from discriminating against employees based on the employees’ or dependent’s reproductive health decisions, and provides remedies for such violations.



DREAM Act:

The Jose Peralta New York State DREAM Act ([A.782](#)) would eliminate potential financial obstacles to obtaining state financial aid for undocumented students in New York seeking to attend an institution of higher education. Under the bill, these students would be eligible for general awards, performance based awards, or New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) funds if they:

- Attended an approved NYS high school for two or more years, graduated from an approved NYS high school and applied for attendance to a NYS college or university within five years of receiving their NYS high school diploma; or
- Attended an approved NYS program for a state high school equivalency diploma, received their state high school equivalency diploma and applied for attendance to a NYS college or university

within five years of receiving their state high school equivalency diploma; or

- Are otherwise eligible for in-state tuition at SUNY, CUNY or community colleges as prescribed by their admission criteria.

Although federal law requires that every state provide primary and secondary education to all children regardless of their residence or immigration status, current New York State law prohibits these students from receiving state financial aid for higher education.

The legislation would also help immigrant families prepare for the costs of higher education by allowing an individual with a taxpayer identification number to open a New York State 529 family tuition account under the New York State College Savings Program.

Joint Legislative Budget Hearing on Environmental Conservation:

The beginning of session brings with it the beginning of budget season in Albany. [The Governor released his FY 2020 Executive Budget](#) last week and joint legislative budget hearings began on Monday. As a member of the Environmental Conservation Committee in the Assembly and someone who has been a leader in the legislature on promoting renewable energy, particularly around solar, I was happy to question the Governor's Commissioner on Environmental Conservation about the Governor's new plan for New York to be 100% carbon-free by 2040.

While the Governor's plans sound great on paper, it is incumbent on the legislature to read beyond the headline and dig deeper into exactly how we are going to get there. Currently New York is at 23% renewable, but the vast majority of that comes from old hydroelectric dams and overall only 2% comes from wind and just 1% from solar.

I am heartened that the Governor is creating the largest offshore wind project in the nation off the coast of Long Island, but if we are going to meet these ambitious goals then we're going to have to do far more to incentivize community and individual solar projects. In order to wean ourselves off of old technology and power production we must invest all of our resources and ingenuity into renewable energy and I will continue to push the administration to do so.

Watch my exchanges with John Rhodes, Chair of the Public Service Commission and Alicia Barton, the President and CEO of NYSERDA to see their answers to my questions:



I also had an opportunity to ask Basil Seggos, the Governor's Commissioner of Environmental Conservation about the Governor's plan to ban single use plastic bags. Watch that below (please excuse poor sound):



Two Historic Bill Signings:

I was proud to join the Governor and a number of my colleagues yesterday and today for historic signings of the electoral reform package that we passed last week and for the signing of the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA), ([A.747](#)), which will protect the rights of transgender and gender-nonconforming New Yorkers and make gender identity and expression one of the state's protected classes so that no one can be denied essentials like housing, health care, education and employment solely because of who they are.



New Men's Shelter on Coney Island Avenue:

The New York City Department of Homeless Services is siting a shelter at 570 Coney Island Avenue later in the Spring and I am moderating a town hall with them for the public on February 7th. Both the city and the service provider, Black Veterans for Social Justice, will be on hand to make a presentation and to hear from the community. So if you live in the neighborhood and have concerns and want to learn more, we want to make sure your voice is heard. See details for the meeting on the flyer below:



Coney Island Avenue

Community Conversation

Please join the NYC Department of Homeless Services (DHS) and Black Vets for Social Justice for a community conversation moderated by Assembly Member Robert Carroll regarding new transitional housing on Coney Island Avenue.

Date: Thursday, February 7th, 2019

Time: 6 P.M. – 8 P.M.

Location: JHS 62-700 Cortelyou Rd, Brooklyn, NY 11218



Upcoming Event Sponsored by my Office:

MetroCard VAN



Wednesday, January 30

>>> **10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** <<<<

Cortelyou Library

1305 Cortelyou Road *(between Rugby and Argyle Roads)*

>>> **1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** <<<<

Assemblymember Carroll's District Office

416 7th Avenue *(between 13th and 14th Streets)*



Appointments: Walk-in

Services: Take care of all MetroCard business at the MetroCard Van. Apply for or refill a Reduced-Fare MetroCard, Regular MetroCard, or Unlimited Metrocard. Buy Pay-Per-Ride cards. Check the balance on expired MetroCards. And ask MetroCard-related questions. You will get prompt, attentive service, right in your own neighborhood.

Seniors: If you are 65 years of age or older, you can bring your application to the MetroCard Van with two valid IDs (*Driver's License, Medicare Card, or Birth Certificate, one of which must have a photograph of you*). Free photography services will be available.

Bklyn
Public Library



For additional information on this event or any other local or state issue, please call Assemblymember Robert Carroll's District Office at **718-788-7221**.



Community Calendar:

70th Precinct Sector C Build the Block Neighborhood Coordinating Officer (NCO) meeting

Community Senior Center, 1419 Dorchester Road

Tuesday, January 29

7:00 pm

Join the Neighborhood Coordinating Officers (NCOs) to learn more about community policing and public safety. The purpose of this meeting is to have a conversation with your NCOs in order to enhance the relationship between the officers and the members of this community. You can utilize this time to exchange contact information with your area Neighborhood Coordinating Officer and speak on issues concerning your area.

78th Precinct Community Council

65 6th Ave (between Dean and Bergen)

Tuesday, January 29

7:30 pm

Community Council meetings typically take place on the last Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM in the precinct.

70th Precinct Community Council

ADAPT, 175 Lawrence Ave

Wednesday, January 30

7:30 pm

Community Council meetings typically take place on the last Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM. Please join the Commanding Officer of the 70th Precinct, your Neighborhood Officers (NCO), Community Affairs Officers, your neighbors, public officials, and more. Discuss key safety and security issues affecting our lives and our communities.

See you around the Neighborhood,
Bobby

Assemblymember Robert Carroll

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